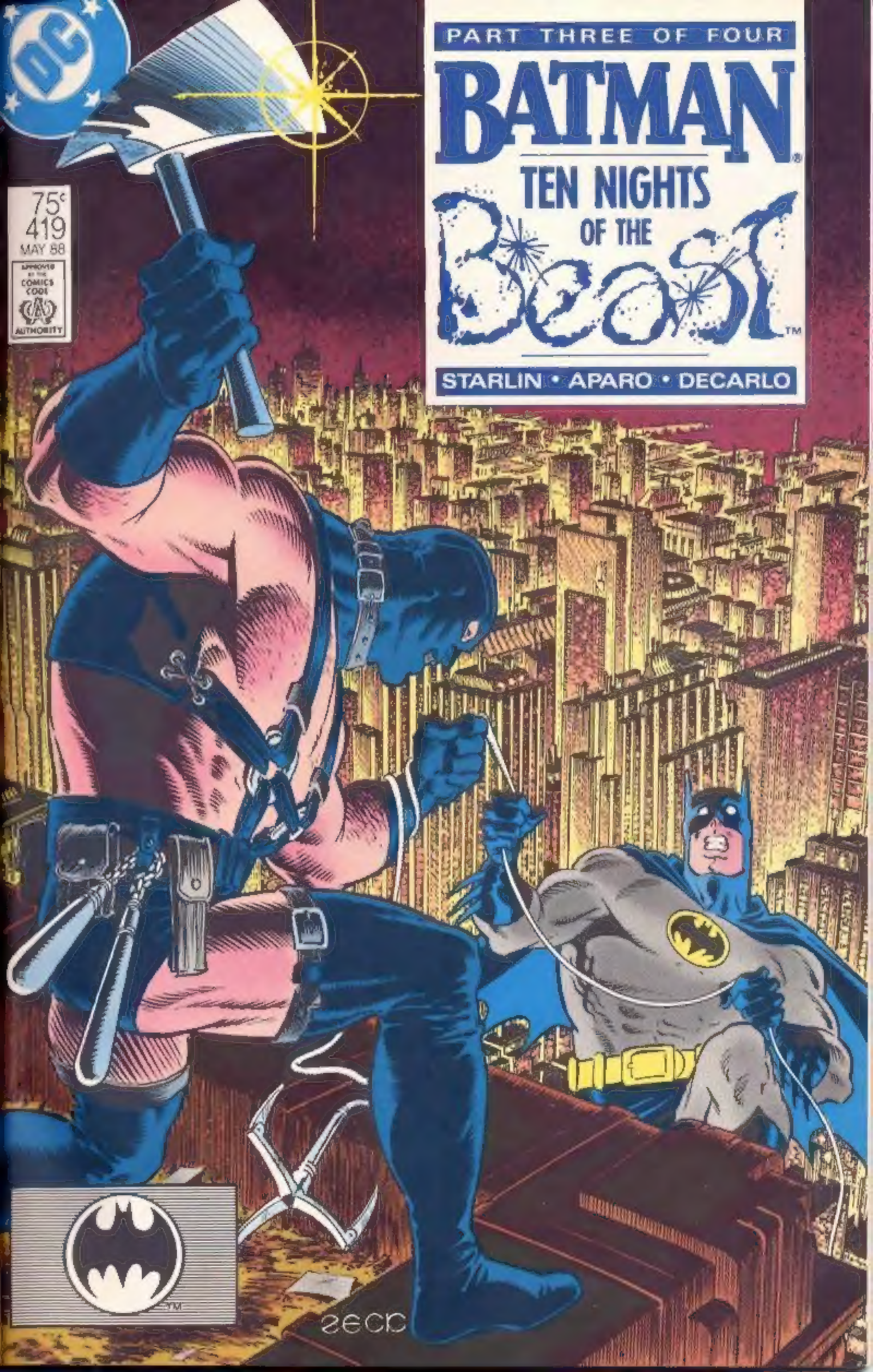
PART THREE OF FOUR
BATMAN
TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST
STARLIN • APARO • DECARLO
75¢
419
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COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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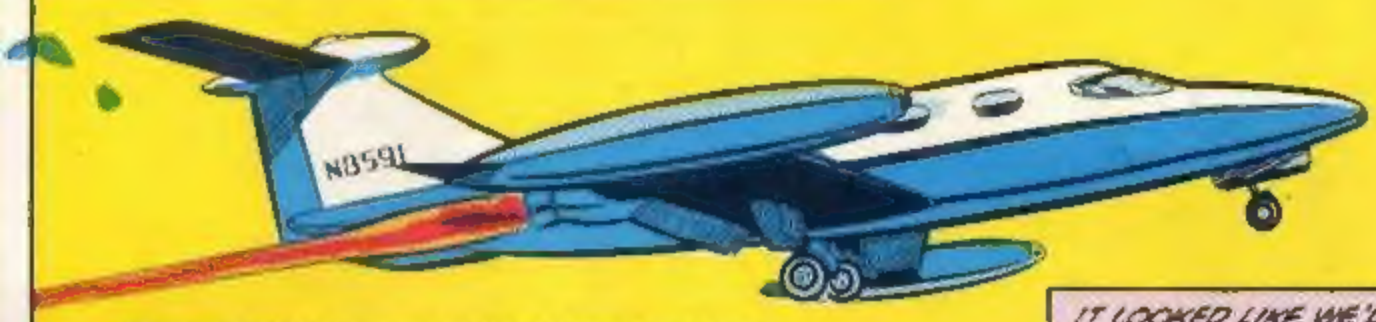
DAY 5, 8:55 A.M. GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.



THEIR FLIGHT TOOK OFF RIGHT ON TIME.

IT LOOKED LIKE WE'D FINALLY OUTSMARTED THE BEAST.

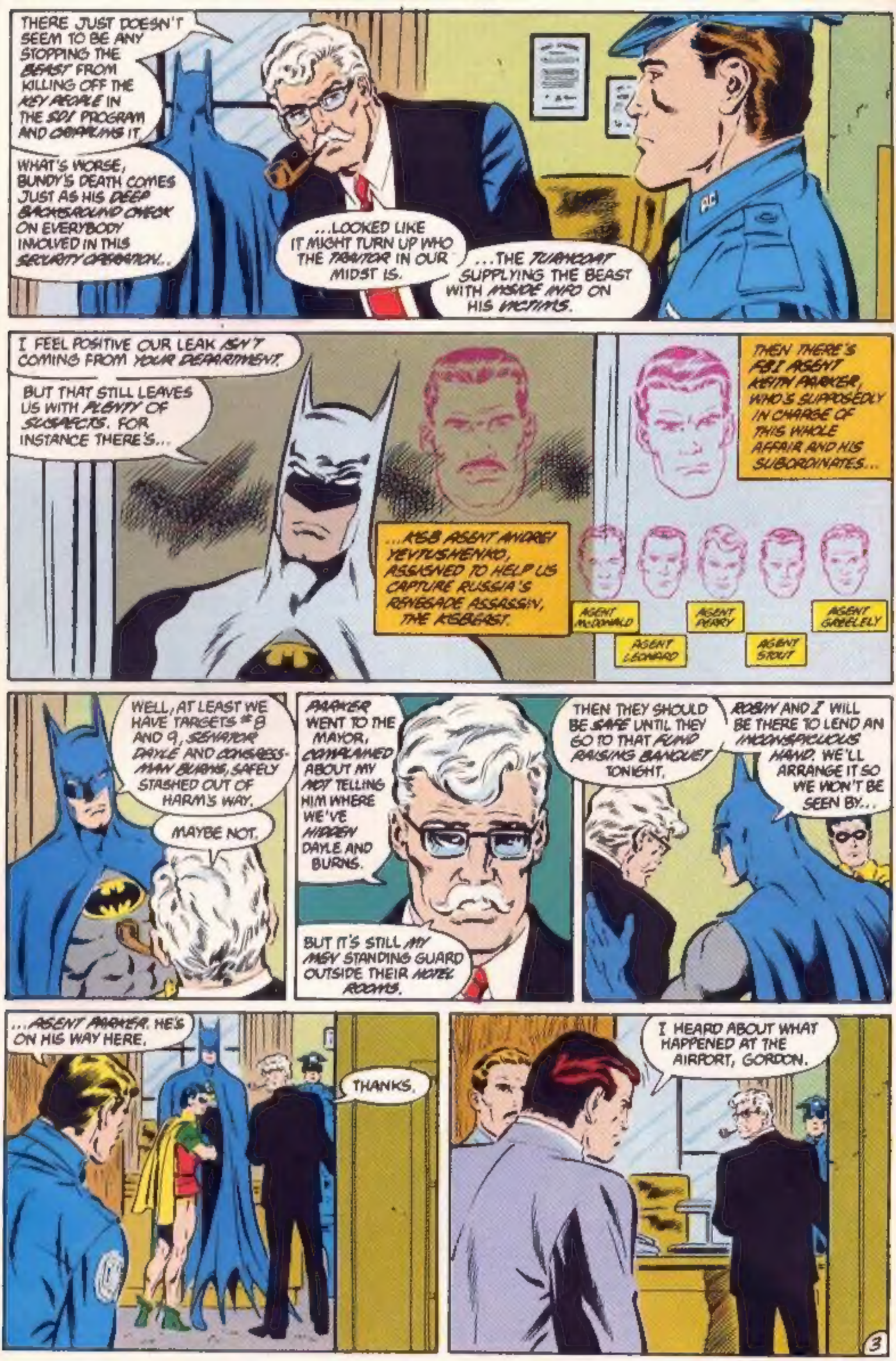
WE WERE WRONG, OF COURSE.

NO ONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT INFERNO.

PART III

TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST!

A PASSING MOTORIST SPOTTED TWO STRANGE-LOOKING MEN PARKED ALONGSIDE AIRPORT ROAD.
THE DESCRIPTION HE GAVE US TO THEM LEAVES NO DOUBT IN MY MIND...
...ANATOLI KNYAZEV, THE KGB BEAST HAS STRUCK AGAIN.
HIS SHI'ITE TERRORIST ASSISTANT, NABIH SALABI, WAS WITH HIM.
HE USED A PORTABLE STINGER ROCKET LAUNCHER TO KNOCK DOWN THE PLANE.
AN AMERICAN MADE WEAPON... PROBABLY PICKED IT UP ON GOTHAM CITY'S BLACK MARKET.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE.
DAY 5, 10:15 A.M. POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE.
THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE, BATMAN.
CIA AGENT BLUNDY KNEW THE RISKS, TRYING TO SNEAK GENERAL RIDWELL OUT OF TOWN THAT WAY.
...GENERAL BRIAN RIDWELL, THE MILITARY HEAD OF THE STAR WARS PROGRAM.
THAT MEANS THE BEAST HAS SUCCEEDED IN TAKING OUT 7 OF THE 10 PEOPLE ON HIS HIT LIST.
2


THERE JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY STOPPING THE BEAST FROM KILLING OFF THE KEY PEOPLE IN THE SDI PROGRAM AND CRIPPLING IT.
WHAT'S WORSE, BUNDY'S DEATH COMES JUST AS HIS DEEP BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERYBODY INVOLVED IN THIS SECURITY OPERATION...
...LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT TURN UP WHO THE TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST IS.
...THE TURNCOAT SUPPLYING THE BEAST WITH INSIDE INFO ON HIS VICTIMS.
I FEEL POSITIVE OUR LEAK ISN'T COMING FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT.
BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH PLENTY OF SUSPECTS. FOR INSTANCE THERE'S...
...KGB AGENT ANDREI YEVTUSHENKO, ASSIGNED TO HELP US CAPTURE RUSSIA'S RENEGADE ASSASSIN, THE KGBEAST.
THEN THERE'S FBI AGENT KEITH PARKER, WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY IN CHARGE OF THIS WHOLE AFFAIR AND HIS SUBORDINATES...
AGENT McDONALD
AGENT LEONARD
AGENT MARY
AGENT STOUT
AGENT GREELEY
WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE TARGETS #8 AND 9, SENATOR DAYLE AND CONGRESSMAN BURNS, SAFELY STASHED OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
MAYBE NOT.
PARKER WENT TO THE MAYOR, COMPLAINED ABOUT MY NOT TELLING HIM WHERE WE'VE HIDDEN DAYLE AND BURNS.
BUT IT'S STILL MY MEN STANDING GUARD OUTSIDE THEIR HOTEL ROOMS.
THEN THEY SHOULD BE SAFE UNTIL THEY GO TO THAT FUND RAISING BANQUET TONIGHT.
ROBIN AND I WILL BE THERE TO LEND AN INCONSPICUOUS HAND. WE'LL ARRANGE IT SO WE WON'T BE SEEN BY...
...AGENT PARKER. HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE.
THANKS.
I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AIRPORT, GORDON.
3

WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF I'D BEEN IN CHARGE OF THAT OPERATION.
THAT'S WHY I WANT ALL THE DETAILS ON HOW YOU'RE PLANNING TO TRANSPORT THE SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN TO THAT DINNER THIS EVENING.
WE'VE GOT THEM AT THE COMMODORE HOTEL AND...
IT FIGURES THAT PARKER WOULD WANT THAT INFO.
HE'D WANT THAT INFORMATION WHETHER HE WAS STRAIGHT OR NOT, ROBIN.
MY GUESS IS THAT HE'S NOT. I THINK HE'S OUR SPY.
YOU HEARD WHAT BUNDY TOLD US BEFORE HE WENT OFF ON HIS ILL FATED FLIGHT.
THE BACKGROUND CHECK ON PARKER REVEALED, THAT BACK IN COLLEGE, HE WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.
THAT'S THE GROUP THE RADICAL WEATHERMEN SPRANG FROM.
BACK IN THE LATE SIXTIES, A LOT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS JOINED THE SDS TO PROTEST THE WAR IN VIETNAM.
HAVING BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT GROUP DOESN'T MAKE PARKER A COMMUNIST SPY, ROBIN.
I'D STILL BET MONEY HE'S OUR LEAK.
PERHAPS, OR IT MIGHT BE OUR FRIENDLY LOCAL KGB AGENT, YEVTUSHENKO.
I THOUGHT ME WAS BEING KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT ALL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.
HE'S A KGB AGENT, TRAINED TO UNEARTH SECRETS.
4

THEN AGAIN THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE TRULY SENT HIM TO AID US DARIN KNYAZEV.
HOW WOULD IT LOOK IN THE WORLD PRESS, BERSERK RUSSIAN ASSASSIN KILLING U.S. SCIENTISTS AND POLITICIANS?
I GUESS WE WON'T KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH UNTIL WE'VE CAGED THE BEAST.
DAY 5, 7:16 P.M. THE COMMODORE HOTEL.
Commodore HOTEL
I ARRIVED EARLY AND IN DISGUISE.
THE FIFTEENTH OF THIRTY FLOORS.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH MEN TO COVER THE SITUATION.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ROOMS?
WE HAD THE HOTEL EMPTY THE ENTIRE FLOOR ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.
THERE'S NO ONE STAYING HERE, EXCEPT THE CONGRESSMAN AND THE SENATOR, DOWN THE HALL.
THERE'S A LIMO AND POLICE ESCORT WAITING IN THE BASEMENT PARKING LOT TO TAKE THEM TO THE DINNER.
IT ALL SEEMS IN ORDER. GOOD JOB, GORDON.
JUST MAKE SURE THE BATMAN STAYS AWAY FROM THIS SET UP.
I DON'T TRUST THAT MAN.
5

I WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISED TO FIND OUT, IT'S THAT VIGILANTE WHO'S LEAKING SECRET INFORMATION TO THE BEAST.
WELL, IT'S TIME TO GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
I TOOK ONE LAST LOOK DOWN THE HALLWAY TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER.
THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT.
THE CONGRESS-MAN'S DOOR KNOB WAS...
... DIFFERENT FROM ANY OF THE OTHERS ON THAT FLOOR.
I KNEW I WAS TOO LATE, BUT I HAD TO TRY.
GET AWAY FROM THAT DOOR!

KAARR
UMFF

MY GUESS, IT WAS A SHAPED PLASTIQUE CHARGE, FOCUSED TO BLOW INTO THE ROOM.
YOU OKAY?
FINE. CHECK ON THE CONGRESSMAN!

THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS AIDE...
...BOTH DEAD.

THEN LET'S GET TO THE SENATOR!
ON MY WAY!
BATMAN!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU FOOL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE HALLWAY?!
THOUGHT IT BEST WE GET THE SENATOR OUT OF THE AREA, SIR.
SOUND IDEA, MACDONALD. TO THE ELEVATORS!
I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE SENATOR BACK TO HIS ROOM.
I'M IN CHARGE HERE! YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THIS MATTER!
HOW COULD THE BEAST HAVE SET THAT CHARGE IN THE DOOR?
WE'VE NO IDEA WHAT KHYAZEV ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE.
HE COULD HAVE PLANTED IT HIMSELF, DISGUISED AS A COP.
OR MAYBE HIS INSIDE MAN SET IT UP. WHO KNOWS?
THE BEAST IS CLEVER, MUCH MORE CLEVER THAN AGENT PARKER.
THE IDIOT IS GOING TO GET THE SENATOR KILLED.
8

PARKER, USE YOUR HEAD! NOT THE ELEVATOR, THE STAIRCASE!
WE'D BE SITTING DUCKS IN THAT STAIRWELL! WE'RE DOING THIS MY WAY!
THEN WE'RE COMING ALONG!
NO WAY!
NO TIME TO ARGUE!
MACDONALD! AREN'T YOU COMING ALONG?
NO, SIR.
I'LL REMAIN HERE TO SECURE THE HALLWAY, SIR.
GOOD MAN!
BASEMENT, HERE WE COME!
GROUND
I SURE HOPE WE MAKE IT.
RELAX, GORDON.
WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER...
...CONTROL.
KRUN NG
THE ELEVATOR...
... IT'S STOPPED! WHY?!
BECAUSE YOU'VE LED US INTO A TRAP, PARKER!
9

NOW I'LL HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN GET US OUT OF IT!
I...I...
I'LL SHINNY UP THE CABLES AND...
EVERYBODY ALL RIGHT IN THERE?
THE CINDER BLOCK GOT ASENT PERRY
HE'S DEAD
KEEP YOURSELVES PRESSED CLOSE TO THE WALLS!

CAN'T STAY HERE!
HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM.
HOTEL MUST BE HAVING SOME CONSTRUCTION TAKING PLACE ON THE TOP FLOOR, FIFTEEN STORIES ABOVE ME.
THE MANAGEMENT HAS PROVIDED ALL THE CONCRETE MISSILES THE BEAST WILL EVER NEED.
YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A GOOD HOTEL BY THE WAY THE STAFF FORESEES AND ATTENDS TO THE EVERY NEED OF THEIR GUESTS.

THOSE CEMENT BLOCKS BUILD UP A LOT OF MOMENTUM FALLING FIFTEEN STORIES.
THEY HIT THE ELEVATOR COMPARTMENT WITH THE POWER OF AN ANTI-TANK ROCKET
THAT'S RIGHT!
I SAID THE BEAST IS ON THE TOP FLOOR!
GET A SQUAD OF MEN UP THERE ON THE DOUBLE!
TAKE HIM OUT BEFORE HE KILLS US ALL!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY, COMMISSIONER!
HOLD ON!
12

MY ASCENT SEEMS TO TAKE FOREVER
EACH CINDER BLOCK MISSILE MISSES ME BY MERE INCHES
THE STEEL CABLE CUTS THROUGH MY GLOVES INTO MY HANDS.
THE BLOOD AND PAIN MAKE THE CLIMB ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE
THE BEAST AND I FINALLY SPOT EACH OTHER ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY.
13

HE GIVES UP ON THE CHASER BLOCKS.
HE'S CARRYING A 16 SHOT 9MM BERETTA.
HIS FIRST 12 SHOTS MISS.
BUT UNLUCKY #13 HAS MY NAME ON IT
I GET LUCKY
THE REST OF THE CLIP MISS THEIR MARK
IT SHOULD TAKE HIM 3 SECONDS TO RELOAD.
KLIK
I DON'T WASTE A MOMENT.
I HAVE TO USE MY INJURED ARM ON THE THROW.
THE FIRST DART MISSES THE BEAST'S THROAT
THE SECOND DART IS RIGHT ON TARGET.
14

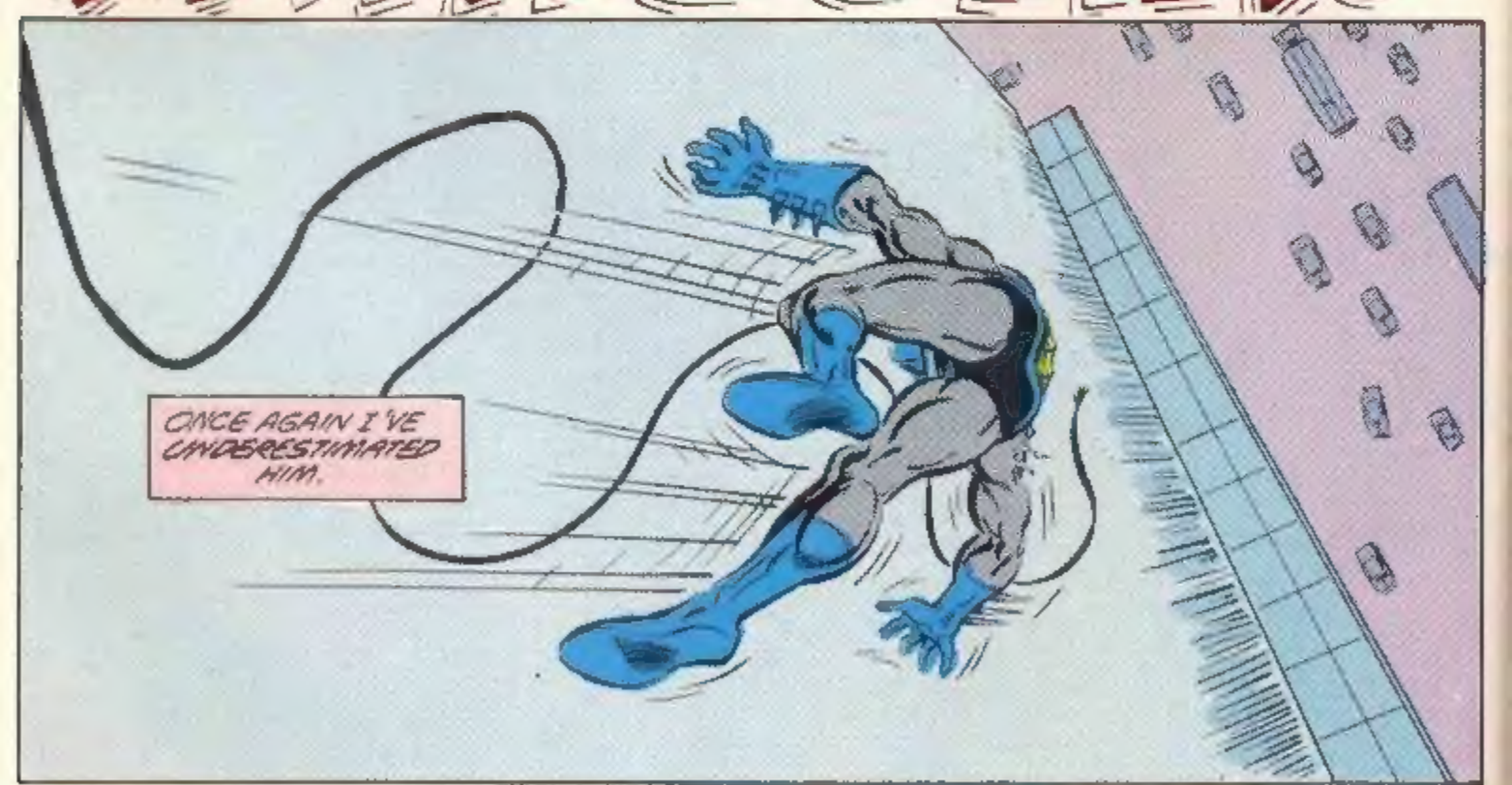
THAT'S THE MOMENT THE POLICE DECIDE TO BREAK IN ON HIM.
BUT THE BEAST IS NEVER TAKEN UNAWARE AND HELPLESS
EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD'S A WEAPON AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED
THE POLICE UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO GIVE A SUSPECT A CHANCE TO SURRENDER BEFORE THEY OPEN FIRE
THAT MOMENT'S HESITATION IS ALL THE RUSSIAN KILLING MACHINE NEEDS
HALF OF THE OFFICERS NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM.

BY THE TIME I FINALLY GOT THERE, IT WAS ALL OVER
THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE
NO!
HE'LL NOT ESCAPE ME AGAIN!

I FIGURE I CAN CATCH UP WITH THE BEAST ONCE I GET ACROSS THIS LINE
BUT THE BEAST DOESN'T CONTINUE IT RAMPAGE ONCE HE REACHES THE OTHER SIDE
GUESS HE FIGURES HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO FACE ME IT MIGHT AS WELL BE LATER ON HIS TERMS
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE MISJUDGED THIS MONSTER
IT MAY BE THE LAST
CRUNCH
ONE MORE TWO MORE CROSS AND I'M IN STORY
ONE CHANCE
PLASTIQUE CHARGE TWO SECOND TIMER
MOVE!
THE BLAST IS JUST BIG ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB
NOW IT'S ALL A MATTER OF TIMING
17

I GIVE THE CABLE A HANDFUL AND DURING THE HALF-SECOND THERE'S SOME SLACK IN THE LINE
AARRGGGG
GOTCHA!
BUT AN ENSNARED BEAST STILL HAS ARMS
I EASILY AVOID THE BEAST'S THROWING DARTS, BUT
THE MANEUVER CAUSES THE BEAST SOME PAIN.
AARRRGGGGG
I CAN'T SEEM TO WORK UP ANY SYMPATHY FOR HIM
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ARMS HERE UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE
THIS BEAST IS BAGGED
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THAT WE COULD ESCAPE FROM THIS TRAP.

KATHUUNK!


ONCE AGAIN I'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIM.

THE BEAST MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE. THERE'S NO ONE TO STOP HIM.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I'M SURE THAT BEFORE HE TAKES HIS LEAVE OF THAT ROOFTOP...

...THE BEAST TURNS AROUND AND SWEARS AN OATH.
IF ANYONE WERE AROUND TO HEAR IT, THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE WORDS, THEY'RE IN RUSSIAN.
BUT ONE LOOK INTO THE MAN'S EYES WOULD CLARIFY HIS MEANING.
"I WILL BE BACK!"
SO WILL I, AS SOON AS I GET BANDAGED UP A BIT.
IT'S BEEN A TOUGH NIGHT.
TOUGHER FOR SOME THAN FOR OTHERS.
THE BEAST'S BODY COUNT IN GOTHAM IS NEARING THE TRIPLE DIGIT MARK.
IT'S LIKE A WAR.
WELL, AT LEAST WE SAVED ONE OF THE BEAST'S INTENDED VICTIMS, SENATOR DOYLE.
MAKE THAT TWO.
THREE IF YOU COUNT ME.
RALPH BUNDY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!
KILLED IN THAT PLANE CRASH THIS MORNING!

WE CIA AGENTS ARE HARDER TO KILL THAN YOU SUPPOSE.
THE LEAR JET WAS PILOTED BY REMOTE CONTROL.
GENERAL RIDWELL?
TRAVELED BACK TO WASHINGTON D.C. BY TRAIN, INCOGNITO.
THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE NAME LEFT ON THE BEAST'S HIT LIST.
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THE BEAST IS STILL GOING TO TRY FOR HIM, DO YOU?
I MEAN, THAT MADMAN LOST A HAND TONIGHT?
THE BEAST WON'T LET THAT STOP HIM FROM FINISHING THE JOB.
I WOULDN'T. WHEN'S #10 DUE INTO GOTHAM?
HE'S SCHEDULED TO MAKE A SPEECH AT THE COMMENTION CENTER, SATURDAY.
I TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF COMING, BUT...
THEN THAT GIVES THE BEAST THREE DAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE HIT.
THAT'S ALSO HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THE K.G.BEAST FROM...
...ASSASSINATING RONALD REAGAN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

DAY 6, 5:36 A.M.
THE SIGN OUT IN FRONT OF AMBROSE DEARLING'S SHOP CLAIMS HE'S AN ENGINEER.
AMBROSE DEARLING ENGINEER
BUT EVERYONE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND UNDERWORLD KNOW HE'S, IN REALITY, AN ILLEGAL MANUFACTURER OF CUSTOM MADE WEAPONS.
VERY INTERESTING. I'VE NEVER CONSTRUCTED SUCH A... UNIQUE DEVICE.
CAN YOU HANDLE THE JOB?
OF COURSE, BUT IT WILL BE EXPENSIVE...
NAME YOUR PRICE. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?
I'D SAY ABOUT THREE DAYS.
YOU'VE GOT TWO.
MISTER KNYAZEV WILL NEED AT LEAST ONE DAY TO PRACTICE WITH HIS NEW HAND.
22
JIM STARLIN writer
JIM APARO penciler
MIKE DeCARLO inker
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
ADRIENNE ROY colorist
DENNY O'NEIL editor